

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



BULLETIN

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Cornus Amomum, the Silky Cornel, which has been much used in the Arboretum, has been in flower here for several days. In cultivation it is not a satisfactory plant unless it can be given sufficient room for its wide-spreading branches to extend freely and spread over the ground. When crowded by other plants the branches become erect and it loses its real beauty and value. To be seen at its best this Cornel should have a clear space with a diameter of not less than twenty feet in which to spread. It is well suited for the front of groups of trees and shrubs, and there is no better shrub to plant by the margins of ponds and streams where its long branches can hang gracefully over the water. Its purple stems are attractive in winter, and the bright blue fruits which ripen in the autumn add to the value of this native shrub. In the Cornel Group, at the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads, there is a good specimen of this plant, and its value for planting near water can be seen on the borders of the small pond in the rear of the Cornel Group.

Cornus asperifolia. This Cornel flowers a week or ten days later than the Silky Cornel. It is a widely distributed plant from western New England to Texas, and under favorable conditions becomes a tree occasionally forty feet high. At the north, however, it is a tall, broad shrub with erect and slightly spreading branches. The flower-clusters are small but are produced in great profusion and are followed by white fruits. There is a large specimen among the other Cornels near the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads.

Cornus paucinervis. It was hardly to have been expected that this Chinese shrub could flourish in New England for it grows naturally not much above the sea-level central China in a climate where the

Orange thrives, and rarely ascends to elevations of three thousand feet. It is a shrub five or six feet tall with erect stems, small, narrow pointed leaves with only two or three pairs of prominent veins, small clusters of white flowers and black fruits. There is a good specimen of this plant among the Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill which in a few days will be covered with flowers. Shrubs which flower here late in July are not very common and this Cornel promises to be a useful addition to the list.

Late flowering Barberries. Three species of *Berberis* from western China are now in flower, *B. aggregata*, *B. Prattii*, and *B. subcaulialata*. These plants will probably become popular for they are the latest of the Barberries to flower. They are all erect-growing, tall shrubs with small yellow flowers in drooping clusters which are followed by red fruits. There are plants in the Shrub Collection and with the Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

Hydrangea radiata. A form of *Hydrangea arborescens* (var. *grandiflora*), with large globose heads of sterile flowers, has become immensely popular in this country since its discovery a few years ago in one of the western states, and it can now be seen in many suburban gardens. A much more beautiful American species, however, is *Hydrangea radiata*, which is now in flower in the Shrub Collection. It is a native of mountain slopes in North and South Carolina, and is a round-topped shrub with large leaves very dark green above and silvery white below, and broad heads of flowers surrounded by a ring of white neutral flowers. It is one of the handsomest of all the *Hydrangeas* which are perfectly hardy in this climate, and although once a popular garden plant it is now rarely found in collections.

Hydrangea paniculata. More conspicuous now in the collection is the early-flowering form of *Hydrangea paniculata* (var. *praecox*). The most generally planted form of *Hydrangea paniculata* is that in which all the flowers are sterile, known as *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*. This plant produces large clusters of white flowers which turn rose color in fading, and will not be in bloom for several weeks. The variety *praecox*, which is one of the forms of the wild plant, has ray flowers surrounding the clusters of sterile flowers. There are two or three forms of the variety *praecox* in the collection differing in the size of the flower-clusters and in the size of the ray flowers. The handsomest and earliest of these was raised from seeds collected by Professor Sargent in Hokkaido where it grows into a small tree sometimes twenty or thirty feet tall.

Colutea arborescens. This and related species are now among the most beautiful plants in the Shrub Collection as they are still covered with yellow flowers which are mixed with the large, inflated, rose-colored or pink pods to which these plants owe their common name of Bladder Sennas.

Aesculus parviflora. The last of the Horsechestnuts to flower, *Aesculus parviflora*, will soon be in bloom. It is a tall, round-topped, shapely shrub well suited to plant in large masses or as a single specimen. In good soil and when uncrowded by other plants it soon spreads

over a large area. A native of the southeastern states, where it is found from South Carolina to Florida and Alabama, this Horsechestnut is hardy in New England, and in cultivation at the north grows into a larger and finer plant than in its native wilds. The small white flowers are produced in long, narrow, erect spikes which stand up above the plant and make them conspicuous during the last weeks of July. There is a mass of these plants at the northern base of the wooded hill on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road and in the rear of the Horsechestnut Group.

Clematis tangutica. Attention is called again this year to this handsome yellow-flowered Clematis which is growing on the trellis at the eastern side of the Shrub Collection. The flowers continue to open during several weeks, and there can now be seen on the plant opening flower-buds and fully grown clusters of fruit conspicuous from the long, silvery-white "tails."

Amorpha canescens. This member of the Pea Family, the Lead Plant of the early settlers on the western plains, will soon open its small violet-colored flowers which are crowded on clustered terminal spikes and are set off by the hoary down which thickly covers the leaves and branches. This handsome and conspicuous plant grows three or four feet tall and is a native of the Mississippi valley where it is found on low hills and prairies from Indiana and Minnesota to Texas.

Rosa Wichuraiana. The pure white flowers of this Japanese Rose can now be seen on a plant in the Shrub Collection with its long stems flat on the ground. Grown in this way it is perfectly hardy, although in eastern Massachusetts when an attempt is made to train it over a trellis or on a building it suffers from cold. There is no better plant for clothing banks, which, when the flowers open, look as if they had been covered with snow. This Rose is one of the parents of some of the most beautiful Rambler Roses which, very successful further south and in Europe, are not very hardy in this latitude.

Rosa setigera. This, the Prairie Rose, is the last of all the Roses in the collection to flower, and no Rose is more beautiful than this inhabitant of the western states where it grows from Michigan to Texas. It is a free-flowering and perfectly hardy plant with tall arching stems, ample bright-colored foliage and broad clusters of pink flowers. It can be trained over an arbor or against a building, but looks best when allowed to grow naturally without any training whatever. There is a mass of this Rose on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road in front of the Cherries, and it is in the Shrub Collection.

Brilliant fruits. From this time until April of next year the Arboretum will be interesting for the fruits which are to be seen here. Nothing so surprises and delights European visitors who come to the Arboretum in summer and autumn as the profusion of showy fruits which are produced here by many trees and shrubs. The Bush Honeysuckles are perhaps now the handsomest plants in the Arboretum with ripe fruit. They produce fruit in great quantities and it remains in good condition for several weeks, and as the different species ripen their fruit from July until the beginning of October the second period

of their beauty is a long one. On different species and hybrids there are blue, black, orange, yellow, wine-color and scarlet fruits, and these beautiful and abundant fruits following beautiful flowers make some of the Bush Honeysuckles desirable garden plants especially in the northern United States where they are very hardy and where they appear to fruit more freely than in other parts of the world. The orange-colored translucent fruit of *Lonicera minutiflora* is perhaps the most beautiful in the collection. This plant is a hybrid between the Tartarian Honeysuckle from Central Asia and a species from eastern Siberia, *L. Morrowii*. *L. muscaviensis* is covered with large and translucent scarlet fruit. The fruits of the Tartarian Honeysuckles are sometimes red and sometimes bright yellow. Two hybrids of this species, *L. bella* and *L. notha*, bear crimson fruit. *L. Xylosteum* produces large, dark crimson, lustrous fruit, and a hybrid of it, *L. xylosteoides*, large red fruit. All the numerous forms of *L. coerulea* in the collection, a species which is found in all the colder parts of the northern hemisphere, have bright blue fruit, and that of *L. orientalis* is black and lustrous. *L. Koehneana*, a native of western China, is now covered with large, dark, wine-colored, almost black fruits which follow yellow flowers. This is a native of western China and is a hardy and valuable garden plant. There is a large specimen now covered with fruit among the Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. These Bush Honeysuckles form a group of shrubs worthy of the attention of persons who desire to form collections of large, fast-growing, hardy shrubs beautiful when covered in early spring with innumerable flowers or in early summer or in autumn when their showy fruits are ripe.

Acer tataricum. The fruits of this Maple are now fully grown and conspicuous from the bright red color of the keys. It is a small tree or treelike shrub and a native of southeastern Europe and western Asia. It is an early-flowering, very hardy Maple well worth cultivating for the brilliancy of its fruit alone. An old inhabitant of the gardens of western Europe and of the United States, it has been rather lost sight of since the introduction of the Japanese Maples. Plants can be seen in the Maple Collection.

Tsuga caroliniana. After two of the severest winters of recent years the perfect condition of this southern Hemlock in the Arboretum shows that it can be depended on to flourish in southern New England. A smaller tree and less graceful perhaps than the Hemlock of our northwest coast, *T. heterophylla*, the most beautiful of all the Hemlocks, the Carolina tree is the handsomest representative of the genus which can be successfully grown here. The Carolina Hemlock was first raised in the Arboretum more than thirty years ago, and among the seedlings are two or three dwarf plants which are broader than high and beautiful subjects for planting in small gardens. Judging by the experience at the Arboretum with this tree, it may be placed among the six most desirable conifers for planting in southern New England, the others being the White Pine, *Pinus Strobus*, the Red Pine, *Pinus resinosa*, the northern Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, the White Fir of Colorado, *Abies concolor*, and the Japanese *Abies brachyphylla*.